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**EG&G ROCKY FLATS**

## INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: September 23, 1993

TO: W. A. Hunt, Program Integration & Reporting, Bldg. 080, X8564

FROM: D. A. Ringle, Solar Pond Projects, Bldg 080, X8603

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS BY THE COLORADO COUNCIL ON ROCKY FLATS ON  
THE FY 1993 SITE-SPECIFIC PLAN - DAR-061-93

*D.A. Ringle*

In reference to the W. A. Hunt letter dated September 17, 1993, same subject (WAH-009-93), to Distribution, the Solar Pond Projects (SPP) is providing the requested information in response to comments received from the Colorado Council on Rocky Flats.

Attached to this correspondence is SPP's response to Comment 13, which states "Page 3-25, paragraph 3 makes reference to pondcrete. Has there not been a great deal of problems associated with the pondcrete technology used on-site? What are the new strategies associated with this technology and what other alternatives are being considered?"

If Program Integration & Reporting has any questions concerning this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

bep

Attachments:  
As Stated

cc:  
R. W. Boyle  
S. R. Keith  
K. C. London  
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Response to Comments by the Colorado Council on  
Rocky Flats On the FY 1993 Site-Specific Plan

The previous Rocky Flats Pond/Pondcrete Stabilization Project was intended to solidify the pond waste materials (sludges) and ship them to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) for disposal. The pondcrete process had been successful in the past, prior to RCRA Land Ban regulations, which tightened requirements. For several reasons, the old process could not meet the new requirements. An improved pondcrete process was being installed based on an assumption that Department of Energy (DOE's) NTS would receive a waste disposal permit covering pondcrete, very soon. It now appears that the permit will be delayed. If DOE cements the waste into pondcrete today, but can't dispose of the pondcrete for several years, requirements could change again and the new pondcrete might be inadequate because of new certification criteria. Therefore, DOE suspended pondcrete operations until a disposal site is available.

The Accelerated Sludge Removal Project (ASRP) has been initiated to expedite the most important aspect of the solar pond remediation activity, the removal of the pond waste materials (sludge) to preclude the potential waste leakage through the pond linings into the soil column below.

The purpose of the Rocky Flats ASRP is to expeditiously remove approximately 900,000 gallons of sludge from the 207 B series and 207 C Ponds, and Clarifier (situated by Building 788) and place them in interim storage for future processing and disposal. The ASRP is the result of a negotiation between the DOE and the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) to have all sludge out of the ponds by January 20, 1995. The ASRP will allow the characterization and mitigation of the pond releases while allowing time for the development of the final treatment process and for the identification of viable disposal location. Negotiations between DOE, CDH, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are nearing completion.

Prior to beginning ASRP operations, all existing pondcrete on the 750 Pad will be relocated to the 904 Pad or other Tents on 750 Pad in order to empty Tents 3, 4, and 6. Tents 3, 4, and 6 will be converted to "Tank Farms." Double walled 10,000 gallon polyethylene tanks will be placed in tents to accommodate sludge storage. During ASRP operations, sludge will be transferred from the 207 B series and 207 C Ponds, and Clarifier to the tanks. Sludge will be stored on 750 Pad until final treatment and disposal location is determined.